

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 A-01 PER-01 EB-07 EURE-00

SSO-00 SP-02 /042 W

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P R 121908Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0327

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 15225

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJ: INVITATION FOR CONCORDE FLIGHT

1. CABINET OF STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
CAVILLE HAS INFORMALLY INQUIRED WHETHER I MIGHT ACCEPT  
INVITATION FLY ON CONCORDE DURING CURRENT SERIES OF  
DEMONSTRATION FLIGHTS, WITH CHOICE OF DATES BEING  
OFFERED FOR ROUND TRIP FROM PARIS TO RIO, CARACAS OR  
BEYROUTH. LETTER FROM CAVILLE THIS SUBJECT EXPECTED  
SHORTLY.

2. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROS AND CONS ON WHETHER I  
SHOULD ACCEPT INVITATION. IN VIEW OF DOMESTIC CONTRO-  
VERSY OVER CONCORDE IN US AND CRITICAL PHASE OF USG  
PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR AUTHORIZATION OF  
CONCORDE SERVICE TO US POINTS, MY ACCEPTANCE OF  
INVITATION MIGHT INVITE CRITICISM FROM US OPPONENTS  
OF CONCORDE WHO COULD CHOOSE TO SEE IT AS EVIDENCE  
OF PRO-CONCORDE BIAS. THIS COULD EMBARRASS DEPT. IN  
LIGHT OF ALLEGATIONS FROM SOME CRITICS THAT DEPT.  
HAS BEEN BRINGING UNDUE PRESSURE TO BEAR IN  
CONCORDE'S FAVOR. MOREOVER, STATE 122234 (NOTAL) OF  
JULY 10, 1974 INDICATED APROPOS OF CONCORDE FLIGHTS TO  
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US THAT ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATIONS WAS CONTRARY TO FAM

PROVISIONS, WHICH POSES QUESTION OF WHETHER THIS INTERPRETATION OF DEPARTMENTAL REGULATIONS STILL HOLDS AND IS APPLICABLE TO PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, THERE IS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT REFUSAL OF INVITATION COULD BE INTERPRETED BY THE FRENCH AS REFLECTING BIAS AGAINST CONCORDE ON MY PART AND ON THE PART OF THE USG. I MIGHT BE REMINDED OF ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM HIGHEST LEVELS WITHIN USG OF LACK OF PREJUDICE AGAINST CONCORDE AND ALSO REMINDED THAT SEVERAL HIGH OFFICIALS FROM EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF USG HAVE FLOWN ON THE AIRCRAFT WHO MIGHT HAVE HAD LESS JUSTIFICATION FOR SO DOING AS GOODWILL GESTURE THAN MIGHT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. PUBLICITY WILL PROBABLY ALSO BE MINIMAL SINCE THIS WOULD BE ONE OF SERIES OF ROUTE-PROVING FLIGHTS FOR WHICH FRENCH ARE DRAWING HEAVILY ON VIP'S FROM PUBLIC LIFE AND ENTERTAINMENT WORLD TO COMPRISE NECESSARY PASSENGER LOAD. HENCE, WITHOUT EXAGGERATING IMPACT THAT REFUSAL OF INVITATION MIGHT HAVE, IT WOULD AT THE VERY LEAST RISK FURTHER NETTLING FRENCH IN AN ALREADY SENSITIVE AREA THAT COULD PRODUCE CONSIDERABLE STRAIN IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS DEPENDING ON WHETHER OR NOT CONCORDE IS FINALLY PERMITTED TO SERVE US POINTS AND ESPECIALLY NEW YORK.

4. AS TO THE PROPRIETY OF MY ACCEPTANCE, INVITATION IS CERTAINLY NOT EFFORT TO CURRY FAVOR WITH ME FOR GOF MUST KNOW THAT PROCEDURE WITHIN USG IS AT A STAGE THAT IT IS BEYOND POWER OF THIS EMBASSY TO INFLUENCE. AND INsofar AS I AM CONCERNED IT IS CERTAINLY NOT A GIFT FOR I HAVE NO NEED OR DESIRE TO TRAVEL TO ANY OF CONCORDE DESTINATIONS AND, IN FACT' SCHEDULING SUCH A TRIP WOULD IMPOSE HARDSHIP BECAUSE OF NEED TO REARRANGE MY ALREADY CROWDED PROGRAM.

5. IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE PROS AND CONS, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE DEPT. AT A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH LEVEL WOULD REVIEW THE QUESTION AND PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL

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GUIDANCE PERMITTING EARLY RESPONSE TO CAVAILLE OR TO HIS STAFF.  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, AIRCRAFT, CONCORDE, INVITATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D750205-0760  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750657/aaaabzjs.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** INVITATION FOR CONCORDE FLIGHT  
**TAGS:** EAIR, FR, (RUSH, KENNETH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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